

FY 2004 WHIP Activities

Number of Applications Received . . . 20
 Number of Applications Contracted . . . 7
 Dollar Amount Approved. \$60,773
 Acres Under Contract. 503.9

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a

voluntary

program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), a voluntary program offers landowners technical and financial support to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

FY 2004 WRP Activities

| Type Approved | Approved Funding | Acres Treated |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 30-Year | \$87,053 | 53 |
| 30-Year | \$360,750 | 135 |
| Perpetual | \$401,151 | 331.5 |
| Perpetual | \$536,000 | 165 |
| Perpetual | \$271,104 | 97 |
| Total | \$1,656,058 | 781.5 |

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides matching funds to State, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

FY 2004 FRPP Activities

| Entity | County | Type | Acres | Federal Share |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|--------------|------------------|
| Colorado Cattlemen's Ag Land Trust | Saguache | Ranch | 905 | \$482,032 |
| Trust for Public Land | Saguache | Farm | 1,240 | \$224,400 |
| Total | | | 2,145 | \$706,432 |

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), reauthorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, provides a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. It provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP may cost share up to 75% of the costs of certain conservation practices.

FY 2004 EQIP Contract Funding in the Rio Grande River Watershed

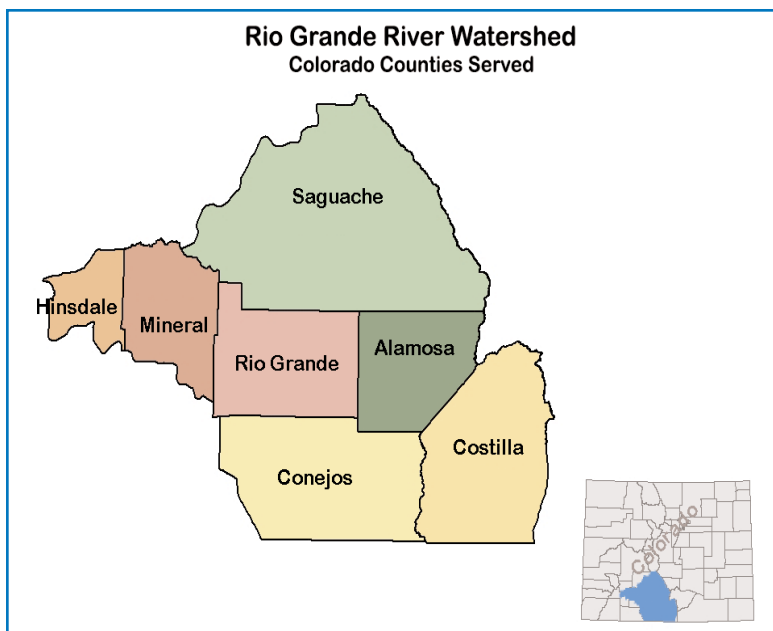
| Natural Resource Concerns | Applications Received | Applications Contracted | \$ Amount Approved |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Water Quality | 180 | 39 | \$1,038,804 |
| Soil Erosion | 11 | 2 | \$30,101 |
| Grassland | 47 | 23 | \$128,100 |
| Riparian | 19 | 9 | \$101,095 |
| Wildlife | 19 | 3 | \$37,514 |
| Acequias/vara strips | 65 | 50 | \$129,192 |
| CNMP | 2 | 2 | \$1,000 |
| Ground and Surface Water | 144 | 42 | \$922,634 |
| Total | 487 | 170 | \$2,388,440 |



Rio Grande River Watershed

What is a Watershed? A watershed is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake. Everyone lives in a watershed. You and everyone in your watershed are part of the watershed community.

Colorado's Watershed Approach: Instead of the traditional statewide approach in addressing priority resource issues like soil erosion, water quality, grazing lands, wildlife, and animal waste, NRCS looks to Colorado's ten watershed work groups to identify local resource needs and priorities. These work groups meet annually to determine which natural resource concerns are most prevalent in their communities. In turn, NRCS focuses its resources on addressing those concerns. Colorado's local conservation districts provide leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level.



4,794,870 Acres

| Land Use | Acres |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Irrigated Cropland | 400,000 |
| Non-Irrigated Cropland | 50,000 |
| Rangeland | 1,400,000 |
| Irrigated Hay & Pasture | 248,936 |
| Non-Irrigated Hay & Pasture | 10,000 |
| Forest Land | 180,000 |
| Urban | 8,800 |
| Conservation Reserve Program | 1 |
| Federal Lands | 2,412,133 |
| Other | 85,000 |



Resources at Work in the Rio Grande River Watershed



The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, including rangeland and pastureland, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. It emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

FY 2004 GRP Statewide Activity

Applications Received353
Applications Contracted7
Dollars Approved \$2,250,000
Acres Under Contract9,066